

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: DAIRY GOATS

Status of World Literature on Dairy Goats, Introductory Remarks^{1,2,3}

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ABSTRACT

In response to wide interest in the United States and around the globe, a world literature search has been initiated with this symposium. A representative selection of some 240 publications on goat management from various countries is included with this introduction. They are intended to aid efforts of the first National Research Council Committee on nutrient requirements of goats, projects of the Agency for International Development and United States Cooperative Extension, and research workers with dairy, meat, and Angora goats.

In the US and worldwide a rediscovery of the value of the goat — dairy, meat, Angora, and even the brush goat — has occurred in recent years. Farm advisors, extension dairy-men, and county agents have been besieged for information on breeding, feeding, artificial insemination, genetics, diseases, showing, testing, and milk products of goats, but few English publications of research on goats were available. Past US dairy research and industry were concerned mostly with cows, while goats were of

greater interest to people of Europe, the Middle East, India, Africa, and the Caribbeans. Therefore, the transfer and translation here of some of their research into the English literature is timely and will save duplicity of research efforts. The work of the invited foreign experts is of importance worldwide and has direct application to the goat industry of this country.

Goats can reduce brush encroachment in Africa, which is important in the control of the dangerous Tse-tse mosquito. Similarly, keeping ski slopes open in Austria and Switzerland is important to the tourist industry; forest fire breaks, e.g. in California, are important to forestry departments; mesquite and black brush control in some areas of the US Southwest is important to cattlemen and sheep farmers. Goats can do these jobs best.

Cheese making from goat milk is of national economic importance in many countries, e.g., France, Switzerland, Norway, Greece, Italy, and the Middle East, while the US is just beginning to recognize goat milk and its products as acceptable alternatives to cow milk and products. Many states, however, do not have milk laws and health codes which permit direct sale of milk from a goat herd. Some states have not recognized that goats and cows have reached the certified free status from tuberculosis and brucellosis and that the sale of raw goat and cow milk would pose no human health hazards when produced under sanitary, low bacteria, and odor free conditions.

Most US animal nutrition and feeding literature states that needs of goats may be deduced and extrapolated from literature on dairy cows, sheep, and beef even though anatomical, physiological, pathological, veterinary, biochemical, genetic, and behavioral differences, some considerable between the three ruminant species, are becoming known.

Some countries, e.g., Turkey, the Balkans, India, Greece, Italy, Israel, are concerned about

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damaging effects of goats on trees and woodlands, but goat farmers in Switzerland and Germany have demonstrated that productive dairy goats and excellent forests can coexist under proper management.

The US is interested in helping Third World countries in improving their people's health and food production and has placed a number one priority on small ruminants, specifically goats. However, the expertise has been lacking in the US.

This 1979 international symposium on dairy goats can help much, but it is not the first for the American Dairy Science Association; a forerunner was in 1977 at the 72nd meeting of the ADSA at Iowa State University with the proceedings published in the *Journal of Dairy Science* in 1978. Dairy goats are a part of the American dairy industry — commercial, institutional, or private — and the *Journal of Dairy Science* is a major US research organ on dairy goats as well as on dairy cows. There have been other important symposia and congresses around the world dealing with dairy goats, and some are listed.

1) 1921 — Second International Congress on goat husbandry at Wageningen, Netherlands.

2) 1930 — Third International Congress on goat husbandry at Antwerp, Belgium.

3) International Congresses on Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination, 1956 at Cambridge, England; 1961 at Hamburg, West Germany; 1964 at Trento, Italy; 1968 at Paris, France; 1972 at Munich, West Germany; 1976 at Krakov, Poland.

4) 1964 — FAO Seminar on Goat Raising Policies in the Mediterranean and Near East Regions at Rome, Italy.

5) 1971 — Second International Conference on Goat Husbandry at Tours, France.

6) 1972 — International Symposium on Dairy Goats and Sheep at Tel Aviv, Israel.

7) World Congress on Animal Production, 1972 at Madrid, Spain; 1973 at Melbourne, Australia.

8) 1976 — First Annual Dairy Goat Symposium at University of Illinois, Urbana.

9) 1976 — Symposium of Sheep and Goat Practitioners at Fort Collins, CO.

10) 1976 — Symposium on Smallholder, Livestock Production and Development at the Institute of Technology MARA, Shahalam, Malaysia.

11) 1976 — International Livestock and Research Training Center Conference on the Role of Sheep and Goats in Agricultural Development, Winrock, AR.

12) 1977 — Symposium of the American Dairy Science Association on Dairy Goats at Iowa State University, Ames.

13) 1977 — Symposium of the American Society of Animal Production on Management of Reproduction in Sheep and Goats at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

14) 1977 — International Livestock and Research Training Center Conference on the Potential of the World's Forages for Ruminant Animal Production, Winrock, AR.

15) 1978 — International Livestock and Research Training Center Conference on the Role of Ruminants in Support of Man, Winrock, AR.

16) 1978 — Symposium on International Programs of the American Dairy Science Association and American Society of Animal Production at Michigan State University, East Lansing.

17) 1979 — International Workshop on the Development of Goats in Asia at the Indian National Research Institute for Dairying, Karnal, India.

Besides these important international events concerned mainly or partially with goats, an international subcommittee on the nutrient requirements of goats of the Committee on Animal Nutrition of the US National Research Council was instituted a few years ago consisting presently of O.P.S. Sengar, India; S. N. Singh, India; C. Devendra, Malaysia; M. Shelton, Texas; J. E. Huston, Texas; and G.F.W. Haenlein, Delaware, Chairman, for writing the first edition on the nutrient requirements of goats. This symposium will aid that effort. From the bibliographies following the 14 papers of this symposium, progress is substantial on assembling world literature on goats.

A representative list of general topics selected from a present file of over 2700 titles follows this introduction (1 to 240). The sources are dispersed worldwide, and access is sometimes hard. The subject matter distribution of publications on goats is approximately as follows:

1) nutrient requirements, 347 titles; 2) nutrition and feeds, 469 titles; 3) milk composition and production, 643 titles; 4) breeding and genetics, 493 titles; 5) health and diseases,

262 titles; 6) products of dairy, meat, and Angora goats, 121 titles; and 7) general management, 427 titles.

It is the hope of this symposium's organizers, its supporters, and the officers of the ADSA that these papers will contribute substantially to better nutrition for children, hungry, and sick people worldwide, and will help to satisfy the interest of a growing industry in the United States.

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